



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Office of Public Affairs, 377th Air Base Wing, 2000 Wyoming Blvd. S.E.
Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico 87117-5606, (505) 846-5991. DSN 246-5991

96-118

Peacekeeper Challenge hone SP's skill, knowledge

By Tech. Sgt. William M. Rhodes
377 Air Base Wing Public Affairs

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. —
Security police specialists from 11 United States Air Force Major Commands and two Allied countries competed in the 15th Peacekeeper Challenge which ended here Sept. 21.

Originally designed to gauge the efficiency of multiple functions within the Air Force security police career field, including traffic accident investigations, crime scene investigation, military working dog, and information security, the competition has grown into a test for proficiency in combat related skills.

According to the Air Force Chief of Security Police, Brig. Gen. Richard Coleman, Peacekeeper Challenge, "defines who we are, what we are and what we're about."

"More and more of what we do will involve force protection not only here in the United States, but also abroad," Coleman said.

Competing in Peacekeeper '96 were teams from the Air Combat Command, Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Materiel Command, Air Force Reserves, Air Force Space Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Air National Guard, Canadian Forces Air Command, Pacific Air Forces, Royal Air Force Regiment, United States Air Force Academy, United States Air Forces Europe, and the 11th Support Wing, Washington, D.C.

Peace Keeper Challenge is broken down into seven events: Obstacle course; Handgun; Machine Gun; Combat Rifle; Grenade Launcher; Defender Challenge; and the Chief of Staff's Challenge.

At the obstacle course, a team of four competitors from each command tackle a mile and a half, including 21 obstacles. The handgun competition consists of three phases with a total time of more than a minute and a half. Competitors fire a maximum of 52 rounds at friend or foe targets and or metal



- More-

Peacekeeper

2-2-2

plates.

In the Machine Gun and Combat Rifle competitions two four-man teams shoot this course of fire under simulated combat conditions using M-16's and a machine gun to evaluate marksmanship skills within set time limits. This event uses military "E" silhouette targets with timed exposure controlled by a radio signal, computer, or hard wire system and "knock-down" targets.

The Grenade Launcher competition course challenges a grenadier's skill with the M203 grenade launcher in a tactical setting. The course, set in an underdeveloped area, covers an area of approximately 500 meters in length and 600 meters in width.

Grenadiers employ tactical movement (moving quickly and using the available cover and concealment along a designated course), and tactical firing positions (using available cover and concealment at each firing point) before firing each round.

During Defender Challenge, an eight-man team performs a base defense or contingency operation mission. Intelligence sources report hostilities in areas on and around the base. The team leader issues patrol orders to his/her fire teams to conduct a movement to deal with hostile forces.

Finally, one team member from each command, usually the fastest, is selected to compete in a head-to-head race on the obstacle course in the Chief of Staff's Challenge.

The following is a list of events, top three commands and team members who competed in the event:

Physical Fitness

AFMC — Tech. Sgt. Jackie D. Green, Senior Airmen Miguel E. Ortega-Llarena and Joseph W. Utz, and Airman First Class James J. Ulven;

ACC — Staff Sgt. Ben D. Del Mar, Senior Airmen K. Gilliland, Phillip J. Higgins and Brian S. Payne; and

AFSC — Senior Airmen Fitzroy E. Howe, Buckley J. Stewart, Airmen First Class Michael A. Malott and Joseph M. Davis.

Handgun

AETC — Capt. David B. Kent, Staff Sgts. Michael Lemke and Hilton D. Vives; and Senior Airman Clint D. House;

ACC — Tech. Sgt. Michael C. Yoakum, Staff Sgt. Arris E. Hill, Senior Airmen Brian K. Gilliland and Phillip J. Higgins; and

USAF — Tech. Sgt. Jerry Elvrum, Senior Airmen Gary A. Halverson and Pat M. Yocum; and Airman First Class Edward A. Frank.

Grenade Launcher

AETC — Senior Airman David C. Sundberg;

AFMC — Airman First Class James J. Ulven; and

ACC — Senior Airman Phillip J. Higgins.

Combat Rifle

PACAF — Master Sgt. James Childs; Staff Sgts. Michael Lantz and John E. Lechner; Senior Airmen Toby J. Darby and Ashley B. McDowell; and Airmen First Class Shawn E. Bock, Chris Dowden and Patrick Flores;

AETC — Capt. David B. Kent, Staff Sgts. Michael Lemke and Hilton D. Vives; Senior Airmen Clint D. House, John A. Seaton and David C. Sundberg; and Airmen First Class Benjamin S. Cohen and Robert R. Snyder Jr.;

-More-

Peacekeeper

3-3-3

ACC — Capt. Steve S. Sugiyama, Tech. Sgt. Michael C. Yoakum, Staff Sgts. Arris E. Hill and Ben D. Del Mar; Senior Airmen Brian K. Gilliland, Phillip J. Higgins, and Brian S. Payne and Airman First Class Eric J. Oliver.

Machine Gun

ACC — Staff Sgt. Ben D. Del Mar and Senior Airman Brian S. Payne;

RAFR — Corporals Ian Miller and Spencer Rockett; and

AFMC — Tech. Sgt. Jackie D. Green and Airman First Class Jeremy B. Richmond.

Defender Challenge

ACC — Capt. Steve S. Sugiyama, Tech. Sgt. Michael C. Yoakum, Staff Sgts. Arris E. Hill and Ben D. Del Mar; Senior Airmen Brian K. Gilliland, Phillip J. Higgins, and Brian S. Payne; and Airman First Class Eric J. Oliver;

USAFA — 2nd. Lt. John G. Grimm, Tech. Sgt. Jerry Elvrum, Staff Sgts. James A. Murphy and Gordon T. Swain; Senior Airmen Abel T. Ballesteros, Gary A. Halverson, and Pat M. Yocum; and Airman First Class Edward A. Frank;

PACAF — Master Sgt. James Childs, Staff Sgts. Michael Lantz and John E. Lechner; Senior Airmen Toby J. Darby and Asley B. McDowell; and Airmen First Class Shawn E. Bock, Chris Dowden, and Patrick Flores.

Chief's Challenge — AFSC: Senior Airman Buckley J. Stewart; AFMC: Senior Airman Miguel Ortega-Llarena; and USAFA: Airman First Class Frank A. Edward.

Each year various national and local organizations present team or individual awards during Peacekeeper Challenge. This year six additional awards were presented.

The Air Force Sergeant's Association, on behalf of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, presented Flight Sergeant William Young, Royal Air Force Regiment with the AFSA Award recognizing the most outstanding enlisted competitor.

The Royal Air Force Regiment won the Chief's Award. Sponsored by the Non Commissioned Officers' Association, is given to the team that best displayed the qualities of leadership, followership, Esprit de Corps, and teamwork.

Traditionally, the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce "Logistics Support" Award is presented to a member of the Kirtland Air Force Base Community whose individual efforts made an outstanding contribution to the successful conduct of Peacekeeper Challenge. This year, the 377th Civil Engineers Group won the award.

The Combat Arms Training and Maintenance Support Award is given to the CATM specialist whose individual efforts contributed most to the competition's overall success. Airman First Class Cory A. Wilde, assigned to the 377th Security Police Squadron, won the award this year.

The Air Force Security Police Association presented ACC with the Marksmanship Award for posting the best scores in all shooting events combined.

A team member from AFMC, Capt. Brent E. French, was presented with the Commandant-General's Award. Sponsored by the Royal Air Force Regiment, the award recognizes the competitor who exhibited the strongest qualities of professionalism, drive, and leadership.